

### **T-39-1 – “Historical Conditions of Sandhill Woodland Habitats”**

*Abstract:* There is little data currently available regarding the extent and condition of state and globally imperiled western xeric sandhill woodlands within the West Gulf Coastal Plain of Louisiana. According to the LA Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), this natural community type is considered critical habitat for 15 species of conservation concern, including the LA pine snake and western slender glass lizard. The objectives of this project were to synthesize all existing literature on West Xeric Sandhill Woodlands and provide management recommendations for this habitat and associated species of conservation concern. Neither aerial photos, GLO data, nor witness tree data proved to be very helpful. The field notes associated with historical data were not detailed enough to be helpful. Visits were made to three of the best remaining WXSX sites. Observation of these managed sites allows us to see what a high quality WXSX looks like and to study effects of active management such as prescribed burns and thinning. A literature review was completed and summarized ecological characteristics of WXSX including: soils and geology, climate, role of fire, effects of man, and characteristics of vegetation. This report compiles all information on the vegetation, ecology, and recommended management of the WXSX habitat in one document.

While historical photos and data proved disappointing in the quest for information on WXSX, the field site visits and literature review both proved to be beneficial. The site visits allowed the survey team to observe archetype WXSX and active management impacts which can be translated back to management of WXSX within Louisiana. The literature review and resulting report provide a comprehensive synthesis and compilation of all known information on WXSX, and will serve as an excellent guide for future detection and management of this habitat type over the range of its occurrence.

**(Abstract excerpted from:** *“Summary Report, Historical Conditions of Sandhill Woodland Habitats (T-39-1)”*; Final Report (September 2006); Reid, C.; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Baton Rouge, LA; 2 pp.)

This grant was closed 31 August 2006. **For more information** about State Wildlife Grant T-39, or to obtain copies of interim or final reports, please contact the State Wildlife Grant Coordinator, LDWF Fur & Refuge Division.